REMARKS

Claims1, 3-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are pending in the present application. Applicant proposes amending claims 1, 5, 12, and 13.

Claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 are objected to for various informalities. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Telephone Interview

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Pham for granting the telephonic interview of September 3, 2008.

During that interview, the undersigned discussed claim 1 and the pending rejections with the Examiner. The undersigned suggested distinctions between claim 1 and the cited prior art. The proposed remarks submitted herein are consistent with those discussed during the interview.

The Examiner agreed to give further consideration to the pending claims upon submission of a written reply.

Claim Objections

The Office objects to claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 for reciting the phrase "adapted to." Applicants respectfully disagree with the reasoning for the rejection. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants propose amending the claim language.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by US patent number 7,171,415 B2 (hereinafter "Kan").

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants disclose a ubiquitous framework:

> [0048] In one embodiment . . . , the search framework registers the search providers 240. After search providers 240

have been registered, the search framework 230 monitors requests from client browser 210 to determine, for each request which comes to the web server 220, whether the request is a ubiquitous search request. When a ubiquitous search request arrives, the search framework 230 instantiates a search context for the request. This search context exposes search related properties and methods related to the ubiquitous search request.

[0049] These search related properties and methods are the properties and methods necessary to perform search responsive to the search request which has been entered on each of the search providers 240 which are responsive to the request. A uniform set of properties and methods are provided by the search framework through the search context which has been instantiated. In order to use the properties and methods, the web server 220 creates a page which uses the properties and calls the methods of the search context. In this way, the complexities of dealing with the possibly heterogeneous searches provided by search providers 240 are avoided, but instead the web server 220 calls the unified methods which have been provided in the search context by the search framework 230.

[0050] For example, if the request which has arrived from the client browser 210 is a search for an exact match for the author "Douglas Adams" on two search providers 240, the search context will expose properties and methods which can be used to call the specified search providers 240 to perform that search. A method for searching for the requested author "Douglas Adams" on the first search provider 240 and the second search provider 240 will also be exposed by the search context of search framework 230.

[0051] **Also as a result of the request, at least one page will be created by the web server 220 to be sent back to client browser 210. Each page begins as a "code behind" object, which consists of code which creates HTML code. The HTML code is then sent to the client browser 210. A code behind object which is created by web server 220 in response to a ubiquitous search request calls one or more of the search context's methods in order to communicate with the two search providers 240. Because of the standardized interfaces 250 which have been created, responses from the search providers 240 are returned to the web server 220 which can be displayed in a uniform manner.**

> [0052] In the example discussed previously, one search provider, a bookseller, returns a search result for a book as, in this order: title, item number, condition of the book, and the price of the book. Another search provider, a library, returns: call number, title, author, publisher, copyright date, and availability information. Each of these search providers may also have different search formats in which to request a search.
>
> [0053] When a search is detected by the search framework 230, **a search context is created which provides methods for performing the search on each of the search providers 240 which are currently configured in the search framework**. Therefore, the code behind object can request the search on each of the search providers by using the methods provided in the search context. On the other side, the ubiquitous search framework is capable of detecting the implicit search provider associated with the current search and expose it separately from the set of all the other search providers. In this way, instead of having to know provider-specific information regarding how to perform the requested search on each search provider, the developer of the code behind object need only know how to access the standardized methods for performing the searches which are provided by the search framework 230. Thus a developer of a web server 220 need not deal with the heterogeneity of search providers 240. Furthermore, the addition of a new provider with new a search request and/or search result format can be accomplished without any changes to web server 220 or the code behind, or without substantial changes to web server 220 or code behind.

Applicant's amended claim 1 recites:

> A method for a search framework to provide search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said method comprising in the search framework:
>
> registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
>
> registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
>
> registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;

> registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;
>
> detecting a search request from a client browser to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;
>
> **in response to said detected request, instantiating a search context associated with the search request,**
>
> **the search context exposing a search method corresponding to the selected search provider and selected from among said first search method and said second search method,**
>
> **the search context creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind object generating code that calls the method exposed in the search context**; and
>
> responding to a call from the web server to said methods exposed in said search context by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method, receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider, and providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach the entirety of the recited claim including the emphasized language. The undersigned respectfully submits that the cited reference does not teach or suggest the emphasized claim language and therefore cannot possibly teach or suggest the recited combination.

Kan discloses a distributed network search mechanism for consumers coupled to a network to search information providers coupled to the network. (Abstract). Consumers may make search requests according to a query routing protocol. (Id.) A network hub may be configured to receive search requests from consumers. (Id.) The hub may also receive registration requests from information providers according to the query routing protocol. (Id.)

Information providers register with the hub to indicate search queries in which they are interested in receiving. (Id.) When a query request is received, the hub resolves the query request with a provider registration index. (Id.) The hub matches search query information from the query request with provider registrations to determine which providers have registered to receive search queries like the current search query. (Id.) The hub then routes the search query to matching providers according to the query routing protocol. (Id.)

In the system disclosed by Kan, a consumer 140 may initiate a query in the network. The hub 100 then determines one or more providers 120 of which the hub 100 is aware (e.g., that have registered with the hub) and that may be qualified to process the query. A resolver 102 handles the determination of qualified providers 120. The ***hub 100 then sends the query to the providers*** 120 it has determined to be qualified. (Kan, col. 8, lines 10-33).

In contrast with claim 1, Kan does not teach or suggest

> **in response to said detected request, instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing a search method corresponding to the selected search provider and selected from among said first search method and said second search method,**
>
> **creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind object generating code that calls the method exposed in the search context**

For example, Kan teaches nothing about "**instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing a search method** corresponding to the selected search provider and selected from among said first search method and said second search method." Rather, in the system disclosed by Kan, upon receipt of a search query, the hub 100 reviews the queryspace of each registered provider, using metadata provided by the provider, to determine which providers are qualified to receive the query. (Kan, col. 8, lines 10-20). After determining which providers are qualified, the hub 100 then sends the query to the qualified providers 120. Thus, Kan does not mention "instantiating a search context" and certainly does not disclose "instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing a search method corresponding to the selected search provider."

Kan also does not disclose "**creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind object generating code that calls the method exposed in the search context.**" As noted above, upon receipt of a query request in Kan, the hub 100 matches search query information from the query request with provider registrations to determine which providers have registered to receive search queries like the current search query. The hub 100 then routes the search query **to matching providers** according to the query routing protocol. Kan does not generate a web page with a code behind object or send such a web page to the client browser. Further, as noted above, Kan does not disclose "instantiating a search context" and therefore cannot possibly teach "**the code behind object generating code that calls the method exposed in the search context**".

Therefore, because Kan fails to disclose the recited claim language, Kan does not anticipate the recited combination. For similar reasons, independent claims 5, 12 and 13 are not anticipated or rendered obvious. Further, all dependent claims are patentably defined over the cited references as a consequence of being dependent upon a valid independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that other claims patentably define over the references for additional reasons. For example, in connection with claim 13, Kan does not disclose:

> **registration module** for registering a first search method adapted to perform searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method adapted to perform searches on a second of said at least two search providers, and also **for registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider and registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider, the first response format defining an interface for receiving a number of items returned in a response to executing the first search method and an estimated number of total results returned in a response to executing the first search method, the second response format defining an interface for receiving a number of items returned in a response to executing the second search method and an estimated number of total results returned in a response to executing the second search method.**

Kan does not disclose a "registration module . . . for registering a first response format . . and registering a second response format." Rather, as noted by the Office, Kan discloses responding to queries with "results" documents. The referenced "results" documents are not a "registration module," and certainly not a registration module "for registering a first response format . . . and registering a second response format."

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned respectfully submits that pending claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Examiner Pham is invited to call the undersigned in the event a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

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